

1 WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

2 1. A vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus having a
3 stereoscopic image detecting unit for detecting a stereoscopic
4 image of solid objects around a self vehicle, an image processor
5 for processing said image into a distance image and a plurality
6 of micro-processors based on said distance image for recognizing
7 said solid objects, comprising:

8 a wall surface detecting means for dividing positional
9 data of said solid objects into groups and for detecting a wall
10 surface formed along a boundary of a road based on said grouped
11 positional data of said solid objects;

12 a wall surface model forming means for interconnecting
13 a plurality of nodes and for forming a wall surface model based
14 on said interconnected nodes to express an outline of said wall
15 surface; and

16 a wall surface model correcting means for correcting
17 said wall surface model based on said grouped positional data
18 of said solid objects.

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20 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
21 said wall surface model correcting means comprises a
22 means for applying a pattern matching to said grouped positional
23 data to search a position of said wall surface corresponding to
24 said respective nodes and a means for correcting coordinates of
25 said nodes based on said position of said wall surface.

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27 3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
28 said pattern matching uses a wall surface pattern

1 having such weight coefficient as becoming large in the outside
2 direction thereof.

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4 4. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein
5 said wall surface model correcting means comprises a
6 means for correcting said coordinates of said corresponding nodes
7 in the direction where said positional data of said solid objects
8 partially exist, when said pattern matching detects no wall
9 surface.

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11 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
12 said wall surface model correcting means comprises a
13 means for correcting said coordinates of said respective nodes
14 in the direction of bringing them close to a straight line
15 connecting one adjacent node and the other adjacent node after
16 said wall surface model is corrected based on said grouped
17 positional data of said solid objects.

THESE SHEETS ARE SPECIFIC